



K-6 DISCOVER American Indians

AMERICAN INDIANS

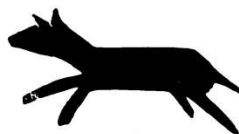
American Indians were the first to experience the awesome power of Devils Tower. The Lakota Sioux of the Plains referred to Devils Tower as Mateo Tepee, which means "Bear Lodge."

The tower is sacred to the Indians of the area. Tribes, such as the Shoshone, Kiowa, Crow, Arapaho, Cheyenne, and Lakota Sioux came to fish or hunt buffalo, deer, and other game. They camped in the valley along the Belle Fourche River, but few chose to live there.

The tower is considered a holy place, a place for ceremonies. This respect may be compared to the way some people feel about the Vatican in Rome or the Holy Lands in the Middle East.

Today, Devils Tower National Monument continues to be a place for traditional activities. Personal and group ritual activities include prayer offerings, prayer bundles, sweatlodge rites, and the Sun Dance. Most of these activities appear to be related to the Lakota Sioux tribe.






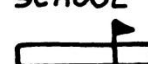
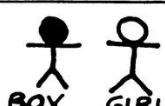













A prayer bundle is a small article wrapped in cloth and placed in trees or on rocks within the Monument. If you happen to see these bundles, you should not disturb them.





Symbols were used as one form of communication long before our present written language. Pretend there is no written language today. From the symbols provided below, and those that you create, tell a special story just as the American Indians may have done with their symbols.

WRITE A SYMBOL STORY

LIGHTNING 	SUN 	MOUNTAIN 	MOON 	BALL 	SCHOOL 	BOY GIRL 
SNAKE 	TREE 	CAR 	FISH 	RAIN 	HAT 	DOG 
COMB 	BIRD 	SHOVEL 	APPLE 	LAKE 	SHIRT 	BOOK 